Computerisation of courts

†2863. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to computerize the lower courts in future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the above scheme is likely to be implemented;

(d) the names of the States where the said courts are likely to be computerized in the first phase and the amount likely to be incurred thereon; and

(e) the number of lower courts in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh which have been decided to be computerized in the first phase?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A scheme for computerisation of all the 13000 District and Subordinate Courts, prepared in accordance with the National Policy and Action Plan has been approved by the Government on 8th February, 2007 with National Informatics Centre (NIC) as the implementing agency. The coverage of the project includes Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enablement of all the District and Subordinate Courts and upgrading the ICT infrastructure of the Supreme Court and all the High Courts.

(c) The project is to be implemented in three phases over a period of five years. The first phase, which is under implementation, is scheduled to be completed in two years.

(d) The first phase of the project is being implemented in all the States and Union Territories at an estimated cost of Rs. 442 crore.

(e) All the lower courts in the country including the courts in the States of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh have been taken up for computerization in the first phase.

Appointment of judges in High Courts

†2864. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 351 judges have been appointed on permanent or temporary basis in various High Courts, violating the collegium of the Supreme Court;

(b) whether the Supreme Court in its decision, had held that no Judge would be appointed on regular basis, without the advice of Supreme Court Collegium;

(c) the reasons for violating the collegium procedure; and

(d) the system being adopted to ensure strict compliance of directions, in future?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d) There has been no violation in appointment of Additional Judges as Permanent Judges. Appointment of Additional Judges and Permanent Judges of High Courts are made as per the Judgment

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

dated 6th October, 1993 of Supreme Court and their advisory opinion dated 26th October, 1998. A total number of 351 Additional Judges have been appointed as Permanent Judges in various High Courts during the period 1.1.1992 to 31.07.2007 in consultation with the Chief Justice of India.

Lack of work for young lawyers

2865. DR. K. MALAISAMY:
SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is uneasiness and frustration among young junior lawyers, who are not having enough practice in the profession;

(b) whether there would be some device to prohibit or discourage further flow of fresh lawyers, as the supply is more than the demand; and

(c) whether there would be some scheme to attract and rehabilitate these young junior lawyers in some alternative vocations?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. The Bar Council of India has informed that there is certain amount of frustration and uneasiness among junior lawyers as they are finding it difficult to get a foothold in the profession.

(b) and (c) The Bar Council of India is taking steps in this regard. The Bar Council of India is a statutory body to regulate the working of the profession. The Government proposes to discuss with the Bar Council of India to ameliorate the legal profession to help the junior lawyers to overcome their dificulties. The Government also proposes to involve junior lawyers in the legal aid work.

Involvement of State in court cases

2866. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State is by far the biggest litigant in the country, and contributes a large part to the staggering backlog of Civil suits over 10 million clogging the courts;

(b) whether Government has known the common areas of litigation between the State and the citizens;

(c) if so, what are those areas and how Government proposes to reduce backlog involving the State;

(d) whether Government would introduce Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) for resolving such disputes; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.